



Staff Report

RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING AN ATHLETIC FIELD USE PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

The demand for City of Belmont athletic fields has increased dramatically over the past 15 years, with year-round sports activity becoming commonplace. Consequently, additional athletic field maintenance efforts are required. The Parks & Recreation Commission established an Athletic Field Use Policy Ad Hoc Committee who recommended implementation of an athletic field use per player registration fee in the amount of \$20.00 per resident and \$40.00 per non-resident player per season and per sport annually, restricted for specific athletic field maintenance purposes only. The Parks & Recreation Commission subsequently recommended adoption of this fee. A resolution for this purpose is attached for Council's consideration implementing the fee effective January 1, 2008.

Background

The demand for City of Belmont athletic fields has increased dramatically over the past 15 years, with year-round sports activity becoming commonplace. This coupled with an aging infrastructure, requires proactive measures to address the radical decline in the quality, safety and playability of City of Belmont athletic fields. Having said that, additional athletic field maintenance efforts are required. If the required additional maintenance is not provided in a timely manner, the athletic fields will reach a state of decline where traditional maintenance efforts will no longer be effective. To that end, additional funding sources have been researched and identified to provide this additional athletic field maintenance.

On September 1, 2004 the Parks & Recreation Commission appointed an Athletic Field Use Policy Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) to work with Belmont Parks & Recreation Department Staff (Staff), to develop a policy that would establish fair and equitable field use prioritization. The Athletic Field Use Policy (Policy) was approved on March 3, 2005 by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

During a required review of the Policy, staff identified a growing concern of the youth sports community that the athletic fields were in a state of decline. The Committee determined that in addition to field use allocation, athletic field maintenance should be addressed. The current level

of City funding for athletic field maintenance was determined to be inadequate to address the need for additional maintenance.

On August 7, 2007 a special meeting was conducted by the Committee and Staff, to address the athletic field maintenance concerns with representatives from the local youth sports community, Belmont Redwood Shores School District, and local Private Schools. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss alternatives for addressing the decline of the athletic fields, aging infrastructure, and to identify possible alternative funding sources that would facilitate additional maintenance efforts. The alternatives presented were formulated from research gathered from neighboring communities that are addressing similar athletic field maintenance concerns.

The following alternatives were presented and discussed:

- Status Quo
- Per Player Registration Fee
- Athletic Field Use Fee
- Per Player Registration Fee and Athletic Field Use Fee
- All Other Ideas

Discussion

After the alternatives were presented, the meeting was then open for discussion. Those attending the meeting expressed conditional approval of the per player registration fee, but found the field use fee to be prohibitive. While many communities have adopted the per player fee, few have adopted the field use fee for local youth sports organizations.

Those in attendance expressed concern regarding the funds generated from the proposed per player registration fee, as they did not want these funds to go into the City General Fund account, where they could be used for other purposes. A restricted fund would be required to provide for an accurate accounting of any collected funds, which were to be used for specific athletic field maintenance purposes. In addition they did not want these funds to supplant the current level of funding provided for athletic field maintenance by the City.

Potential athletic field maintenance items identified for funds:

- Upgrade porta-potties
- Purchase sod for worn areas
- Change out sprinkler heads
- Purchase temporary fencing for field closure periods

At the conclusion of the meeting, next steps were identified and the item was to be placed on the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda for discussion and direction. All in attendance were invited to attend the Commission meeting.

At the November 8, 2007 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, staff proposed the

implementation of an athletic field use per player registration fee. Youth sports representatives were in attendance and expressed their support of the per player registration fees, but recommended increasing the fee originally proposed by staff. Immediately following Commission discussion, the final per player registration fees were identified and unanimously approved (7-0, with 2 Commissioners absent) by the Commission.

The Parks & Recreation Commission also discussed the need for capital improvements. An Athletic Field Master Plan was prepared in 2001, which provided cost estimates for athletic field improvements throughout the City. The original cost analysis totals were adjusted to identify 2007 cost estimates, to provide those in attendance with an idea of the capital funds required to make major field improvements.

The need to secure funds to provide major improvements to City athletic fields was agreed upon by all in attendance. Some of the ideas articulated to obtain those funds were:

- Bond Measure or Parcel Tax
- Create a Non-Profit Foundation
- Identify current state level bond funds
- Debt Service formula used in the City of Redwood City
- Belmont Sports Legacy Blueprint

At a future date, staff will work with the Parks & Recreation Commission to explore these funding alternatives further.

General Plan/Vision Statement

Natural Beauty

- Our actions today preserve and enhance Belmont's beauty to make it even lovelier for our grandchildren.

Thriving Culture

- Our playgrounds and athletic fields are of high quality and high gear.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed athletic field use per player registration fee of \$20.00 per resident and \$40.00 per non-resident player per season and per sport, would generate approximately \$94,600.00 annually for use on specified athletic field maintenance purposes. Resident and non-resident status would be determined by existing Athletic Field Use Policy, a copy of which is attached. Funds would be restricted. If adopted by Council, an adjustment to the Mid Year Review will be required reflecting the additional revenue.

As part of the FY 2009 Budget, staff will develop a proposal for planned maintenance activities subject to input from the Youth Sport Representatives.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council Meeting Agenda.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council approve the resolution to implement an athletic field use per player registration fee in the amount of \$20.00 per resident player per season and per sport, and \$40.00 per non-resident player per season and per sport annually, with these funds being deposited into an identified restricted fund to be used for specific athletic field maintenance purposes only. These funds will not be used to supplant the existing Parks & Open Space budget.

Alternatives

1. Take no action.
2. Refer back to staff for further information.
3. Deny the request.

Attachments

- A. Resolution
- B. Athletic Field Use Player Registration Fee Presentation
- C. Athletic Field Use Policy

Respectfully submitted,

George Brunson
Interim Co-Director of Parks & Recreation

Jack R. Crist
City Manager

Staff Contact:

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RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT
IMPLEMENTING AN ATHLETIC FIELD USE PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE**

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont athletic fields are in a state of decline; and

WHEREAS, the need for additional athletic field maintenance is required to provide safe and playable athletic fields for the community; and

WHEREAS, the Parks & Open Space budget does not provide sufficient funding to provide the additional athletic field maintenance requirements as proposed by the Youth Sports Organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Sports Organizations have agreed to support a per player registration fee for additional athletic field maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belmont implements an athletic field use per player registration fee in the amount of \$20.00 per resident and \$40.00 per non-resident player per season and per sport annually, restricted for specific athletic field maintenance purposes only, effective January 1, 2008.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on November 27, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont